



Water Conservation

Lead Department: Water

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Background

The San Diego Water Department services 1.2 million customers, including the largest concentration of military bases in the United States. It is one of the ten largest water suppliers in the nation – providing 206 MGD per day. By the year 2030, the City's population and economic growth is projected to increase water demands by about 55 million gallons a day (MGD) or 25 percent over 2002 levels.

The City presently imports approximately 90% of its water supply from northern California and the Colorado River. Local reservoirs owned and operated by the City supply about 10 to 15 percent of need. The City's Long-Range Water Resources Plan, adopted by the San Diego City Council on December 9, 2002, calls for a flexible strategy for the next 30 years, implemented in three 10-year phases. The principal strategies are:

- Conservation
- Recycled water
- Groundwater storage and treatment, and
- Water transfers

The City's water conservation program was established in 1985, and now accounts for 21,000 acre-feet of potable water savings per year. The program is on target to meet a goal of 26,000 acre-feet of savings annually by 2006. The program has several elements which include:

- Incentives for installation of water efficient hardware
- Public education regarding landscape and business efficiency strategies

State Strategies

- Seek Prop 50 conservation funding for water conservation and water use efficiency programs.
- Support possible San Diego County Water Authority legislation prohibiting restrictions on water efficient landscapes by Home Owners' Associations.
- Support aggressive statewide water efficiency standards (e.g. more efficient water factors for clothes washers, plumbing fixtures, etc.)

Federal Strategies

- Seek new federal programs that support water efficient investments
- Seek more aggressive federal water efficiency standards (e.g. clothes washer water factors and other similar appliance water use factors)